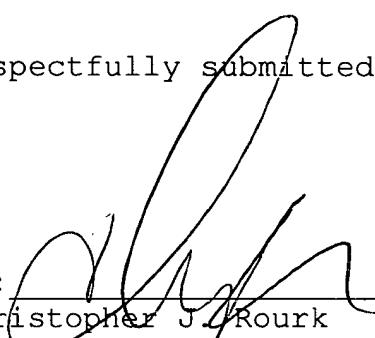


REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 stand rejected. Claims 6 through 8, 18 and 22 have been objected to. Claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6 through 8, 18 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and request entry of the claim amendments. An early Notice of Allowance of claims 6 through 8, 18 and 22 as now presented is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 15, 2001.

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